Alabama Department of Human Resources Mother and Infant Programs RFP# 2019-100-06



- Q1. Will there be an open case on each infant child of the youth mother served?
- R1. Yes, there may be an open case but the child may not be in custody of DHR.
- **Q2.** If an infant child is removed from a youth mother, temporarily, by the Department, will the youth mother then be allowed to remain in the program under a plan for reunification?
- R2. The Department will make a determination based on safety threats identified.
- Q3. Section 1.2 REQUIRED LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION/CREDENTIAL, Page 7, line 1 includes, "Vendors must have a Child Placing Agency license..." and Section 3.0 MOTHER AND INFANT PROGRAMS, Page 15, Paragraph 1, final line states, "Services may be provided in a residential setting or some alternative setting..."

Section 3.0 referenced above states that "some alternative setting" will be considered. It has been a common practice for pregnant and parenting youth and their infants/children to live in TLP and ILP apartments in Alabama. Therefore, will a supervised apartment model be accepted as a viable alternative setting for the Mother and Infant Services program?

- R3. Refer to Section 1.2- Required Licensure/Certification/Credential. No, a supervised apartment model will not be accepted. Services may be provided in a residential setting or some alternative setting, such as a specialized foster home setting.
- **Q4.** Section 3.0 MOTHER AND INFANT PROGRAMS, Page 15, Paragraph 1, Line 1 states, "Mother and Infant Programs are provided in a group living arrangement to pregnant teens..."

Now that the Department is serving youth in foster care through age 21, please clarify if the Department's definition of "pregnant teens" includes youth who are pregnant and/or parenting at ages 20-21 (i.e., from their 20th birthday to before their 22nd birthday).

- R4. Yes, the services will be able to the youth up until their 21st birthday.
- Q5. Section 4.2 PROPOSAL FORMAT, Page 20: Please confirm that there is no maximum page limit prescribed by the Department for a vendor's complete RFP response, including the Technical Proposal plus all required Exhibits and Attachments

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- **R5.** There is not a page limit for the Mother and Infants Request for Proposal.
- **Q6.** On page 16, letter H. There is a reference that staff receive training detailed in Minimum Standards for Residential Child Care Facilities on pages 18-19. There is no training listed on these pages of the Minimum standard.
- R6. See Revised Minimum Standards for Residential Child Care Facilities September 20, 2018, pages 21-23.
- Q7. On page 16, letter H. It also references that staff have to train within required time frames for Minimum standards for child placing agencies, including GPS.
 i. This reference is confusing. We use TIPS now instead of GPS, but also we aren't clear on whether staff are required to follow Child Placing agency standards or Child Care Facilities Minimum standards. We aren't clear why Child Placing minimum standards apply here.
- R7. See Revised Minimum Standards for Residential Child Care Facilities September 20, 2018, regarding training (staff) pages 21-23.

See -Minimum Standards for Child Placing Agencies, Revised July 2016, regarding training (staff) pages 18-21.

See -Revised Minimum Standards for Foster Family Homes, 2019, Group Preparation and Selection (GPS) changed to Trauma Informed Partnering for Permanence and Safety (TIPS) 10/2/2017.

Refer to Section 1.2- Required Licensure/Certification/Credential. Child placing agencies may provide services in a foster home setting.

- Q8. On page 17, letter B. Since the changes with Medicaid, we are concerned about our ability to bill an hour every day, especially during the first month of care while we are evaluating their abilities prior to providing "restorative" services. Is there a way to receive a daily rate during an evaluation period? Can the language be amended in case we are unable to bill based on the needs/skills of the youth?
- R8. No, the only guaranteed rate is the room and board. No, the language cannot be amended, services will be approved as needed based on the ISP.